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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Field Reports—Summer 2013

James J. Dinsmore



James J. Dinsmore

It was a very cool summer, especially in June, and after a wet first six months of 2013, July was very dry, hinting of a return to the drought conditions of 2012. One Casual species was found, and one new nesting species, American Avocet, was added to Iowa's list.

WEATHER

June temperatures averaged 69.0 degrees or 0.7 degrees below normal, the 55th coolest June in 141 years of records, and the coolest June since 2004. June started with below-normal temperatures for the first 10 days. The 37 degrees at Elkader on the third was the lowest temperature for so late in June since 1998. After that, temperatures averaged below normal on only five days. However, extreme heat was missing with the month's high only 94 degrees at Sioux City on the 21st and Muscatine on the 22nd. Only six times in the past century has

Iowa had a lower maximum temperature for June, the most recent being 92 degrees in 2008.

June rainfall averaged 5.14 inches, 0.12 inches above normal and the 55th wettest June on record. Combined with heavy precipitation during the first five months of 2013, the statewide average precipitation for the first six months of 2013 was a record 25.07 inches, 7.87 inches above normal and well above the old record of 24.46 inches in 2008. The total precipitation for all of 2012 was 26.49 inches. By the end of June, for the first time since August 2011, Iowa was rated drought-free by the U.S. Drought Monitor. The heaviest rains fell in the northeastern third of Iowa. The most extreme event was from 21–23 June with Dorchester receiving 8.99 inches of rain. This led to major flooding on the Upper Iowa, Turkey, and other rivers. Another major event occurred on 24 June with high winds across central and southern Iowa, and 6.80 inches of rain in Lowden, leading to flooding on the Wapsipinicon River. Rainfall totals varied from 2.11 inches at Holly Spring in Woodbury County to 14.06 inches at Dorchester. On 12 June, hail, high winds, and tornadoes hit north-central and northeastern Iowa.

July was cool and dry. Temperatures averaged 72.5 degrees, 1.1 degrees below average, and the 31st coolest July on record. Temperatures were below average for the first few days, above average for the next five days and after a warm spell from 14– 22 July, cool

weather lasted to the end of the month. The highest temperature was 98 degrees at Keokuk on the 19th. It was especially cool from 27–29 July with numerous low-temperature records set. The month's low was 39 degrees in Battle Creek on the 19th, Iowa's first sub-40 degree day in July since 1984.

July rainfall totaled 1.77 inches, 2.73 inches below average and the 9th driest July on record. After seven months of above-average precipitation, July was very dry except for a few areas in north-central and south-central Iowa. Most of the southwestern half of the state was very dry with Atlantic, Carroll, Sac City, and Red Oak all receiving less than 0.5 inches of rain. Lake Mills with 6.72 inches was the wettest spot. The only severe weather event was on the 22nd when high winds and large hail were reported from 25 counties.

BIRDS OF SUMMER

Habitat Conditions

The continuing loss of grasslands remains a major issue for Iowa's grassland birds. This includes both loss of land enrolled in federal conservation programs and conversion of existing grasslands to cropland. As of late summer, a new federal farm bill had not been passed and the future of CRP and other conservation programs remained uncertain. In July, Iowa had about 1.5 million acres enrolled in the CRP, down from a peak of 2.2 million acres 20 years ago. About 185,000 acres are scheduled to go out of the program this fall. Although new signups (ca 47,000 acres) will negate some of that loss, the general trend in Iowa and elsewhere seems clear; a steady decline in the number of acres enrolled. In addition, Iowa has experienced considerable loss of grasslands, especially pastures, that has been intact for decades. From 2006–2011, Iowa lost 376,000 acres of those lands, much of it south and west of a line from Woodbury to Wayne counties. With the high commodity prices, much of this land has been converted to corn or soybeans. Similar but less extensive losses have occurred in some parts of eastern Iowa.

This summer, the Iowa DNR received reports of the invasive emerald ash borer in Burlington and Fairfield, the second and third reports of this highly destructive beetle in Iowa after a report from Allamakee County in 2010. First found in Michigan, this beetle has been moving steadily westward and its arrival in Iowa was expected. The beetle already has killed millions of ash trees in Michigan and other states to the east. Iowa has an estimated 50 million plus ash trees making it one of the most abundant native trees in Iowa. What effects the loss of these trees might have on birds is poorly known. However, one has to only recall the dramatic effect that Dutch elm disease had on Iowa's woodlands some 50 years ago. It seems likely that in the short term, there will be many dead trees and snags, providing nesting and foraging habitat for woodpeckers and other bark foraging and hole nesting species. In addition, the loss of many trees could create opening in woodlands, making them more suitable for Brown-headed Cowbird, which in turn parasitize the nests of many bird species. Iowans have learned to live without the iconic American elm and, unless a means of control is found, it seems likely that ash trees will also be greatly reduced in number.

Not all of the news was bad. In July, the Iowa DNR dedicated Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose County as Iowa's 18th Bird Conservation Area (BCA). This designation provides

special recognition to an area that many birders have known as a prime birding area for several decades. More recently, the Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest BCA was recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area, largely because of its large nesting population of Cerulean Warblers.

Breeding Species

With the end of Iowa's second breeding bird atlas project in 2012, there were fewer reports of nesting this summer. One new nesting species, American Avocet, was added to the state's list, raising the total to 210. Other rare species found nesting this summer were Mississippi Kite, Wilson's Phalarope, and Black-billed Magpie. The Clinton spoil islands again had healthy nesting populations of Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, and Great Egret as well as single nests of Cattle Egret and Herring Gull, the latter Iowa's third record. The Ring-billed Gull colony near Spirit Lake was active, and Double-crested Cormorant colonies were also found at Red Rock and in Emmet County. Bald Eagles and Sandhill Cranes continued to do well with both species adding to their Iowa nesting ranges. Piping Plovers and Least Terns had modest nesting success at Council Bluffs, while Black Terns were found nesting at two sites. Among reintroduced species, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon populations continued to show moderate growth. Evidence of at least five Barn Owl nests indicates reasonable success for this secretive species. Henslow's Sparrows continue to do well, and Clay-colored Sparrows seem to have established a small nesting population in the Great Lakes region.

There still are a number of species that face special conservation concerns. Two that I have mentioned for a number of years, Loggerhead Shrike and Black-billed Cuckoo, seem to be suffering continuing declines in the state. Records of Cerulean and Worm-eating warblers continue about the same although both have limited ranges in Iowa. A few Pine Warblers again were found in their tiny southeastern Iowa outpost.

Range Extensions

Several species whose ranges seem to be expanding in Iowa continued those changes. Western Kingbirds continued in the Des Moines area. Blue Grosbeaks, which have been found in Johnson County the past two summers, were not reported there this summer but several other reports suggest that the species is continuing to move east. Further information on Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Des Moines County last summer indicates that they were nesting there, extending this species' range further south. And for the fourth summer in the last five, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Iowa. This species, which is expanding its range eastward in Missouri, may also be moving north.

Migrants

Few spring migrants lingered into the summer season with only a few species each of shorebirds, flycatchers, and warblers reported, and only a few late Black Terns noted. No migrant songbirds had been found in Iowa as of the end of July. American White Pelicans were beginning to appear but there was little evidence of a southward movement of Ring-billed Gulls. The report of 12,000 Franklin's Gulls at Trumbull Lake in late July is puzzling. Most of the shorebirds that typically arrive by the end of July were present but fewer indi-

viduals were found this year. Red Crossbills, holdovers from spring, remained at Cherokee into early June. Their status there at this time of year remains an enigma.

Unusual Species

This was a poor year for rarities. No Accidental species were reported and only one Casual species, Prairie Warbler, was found. However, a bird that seemed to be a Black-headed Gull X Ring-billed Gull hybrid was found, providing an interesting twist to this category. Other unusual species that were found included Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Western Sandpiper, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Red Crossbill. For the first summer since 2003, White-winged Dove was not reported.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **A** = area, **BBS** = breeding bird survey, **BCA** = bird conservation area, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **WA** = wildlife area, **yg** = young.

Key to maps: shading = species reported in county. In most cases, the species was probably nesting in the county although evidence was presented only in a few cases.

Greater White-fronted Goose: All: singles: 4 Jun at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 21, 27 Jun at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB), 28 Jun at Badger L *Monona* (GLV), and 10 Jul at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD).

Snow Goose: All: 2 on 4 Jun at Iowa River corridor *Iowa* (JF), one (blue morph) 5 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), one 6 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ), one 6 Jun on Larson M *Story* (HZ), one 10 Jun near Ames *Story* (TMH), 2 on 28 Jun at Badger L *Monona* (GLV), 3 on 4 Jul in

Woodbury (GLV), and one 10 Jul near Exira *Audubon* (SJD).

Trumpeter Swan: Earlier this year, the DNR released 14 swans at four sites in S Iowa: Lake Anita SP *Cass*, Viking Lake SP *Montgomery*, Walnut Creek L *Ringgold*, and Summit L *Union*. This species seems to be established in N Iowa.

Gadwall: Widespread in the nw quarter of Iowa during June with reports of 1-3 in *Boone*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Kossuth*, *Osceola*, *Pocahontas*, *Sioux*, *Story*, and *Wright* (SJD, MCK, WO, MP, HZ). Most: 24 on 12 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD).

American Wigeon: All: one 5 Jun in *Kossuth* (MCK), 2 on 12 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD), and one there 23 Jun (LAS).

Blue-winged Teal: Widespread in NW and N-cen Iowa this summer (SJD). Most: 59 on 30 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD).

CINNAMON TEAL: A male photographed 5 Jun near Leland *Winnebago* (Andrew Furman) is the first summer record since one found 1 June 2003 in *Warren*.

Northern Shoveler: Up to 9 were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Greene*, *Humboldt*, *Kossuth*, *Pocahontas*, *Sioux*, *Story*, *Tama*, *Union*, and *Wright* (m.ob., MSIM). Most: 11 on 12 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD). A brood was found 13 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ).

Northern Pintail: All: one 4 Jun at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (MSIM).

Green-winged Teal: Most: 12 on 7 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). Others were singles 15, 20 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), in *Hamilton* 17 Jun (SJD), *Humboldt* 30 Jun (SJD), and 3 on 18 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

Canvasback: All: one 7 Jun at Garlock Sl *Dickinson* (MSIM).

Redhead: Up to 5 were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Kossuth*, and *Wright* (m.ob., MSIM). High counts were 13 on 12 Jun at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* (SJD), 12 on 16 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS), and 35 on 30 Jun at the Ruthven sewage treatment plant *Palo Alto* (SJD).

Ring-necked Duck: Up to 3 from 1 Jun–25 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 2 on 3 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ), one 3, 4 Jun in at Buffalo Creek WA *Delaware* (MSIM), 2 on 16 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS), one 18 Jun at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD), 2 on 30 Jun at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (SJD), and 3 on 30 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

Lesser Scaup: Up to 6 were found in *Boone*, *Butler*, *Carroll*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, *Sioux*, and *Worth* (SJD, LAS, JB, MSIM). Most: 14 on 5 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Bufflehead: All: 2 on 2 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Hooded Merganser: Broods were found 8 Jun at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* (DTh), 12, 16 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS), 23 Jun at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD), 1 Jul near Tama *Tama* (TMH), 3 Jul at Lower Morse L *Wright* (SJD), 7 Jul at Smith's Sl *Clay* (LAS), and 11 Jul near Decatur Bend *Monona* (GLV).

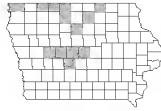
Common Merganser: All: one 17 Jul below the Saylorville Dam *Polk* (MSIM) was Iowa's first summer record since 2010.

Ruddy Duck: Numerous reports, especially in June, with 1-10 in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Greene*, *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, *Osceola*, *Palo Alto*, *Polk*, *Sioux*, *Story*, and *Wright* (m.ob., MSIM). Most: 28 on 2 Jun at Twelve Mile L *Emmet* (LAS) and 27 on 5 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Northern Bobwhite: Up to 4 were found mostly in far S Iowa (m.ob., MSIM). The 18 on 6 Jun on a BBS route in *Lucas* (RLC) was a dramatic increase from recent years. August roadside counts were about the same as in recent years but well below long-term averages (DNR).



Gray Partridge: One or 2 were found mostly in June in NW and N-cen Iowa extending south into Cen Iowa, their usual range (m.ob., MSIM). In late July broods were found near Cheever L *Emmet* (JN) and n *Mitchell* (PH). August roadside counts were down from 2012 and the lowest since the 1960s (DNR).



Ring-necked Pheasant: With a cold wet spring and an early May snowstorm, expectations for the nesting season were poor this year. August roadside counts were down from 2012 and similar to the record low counts of 2011 (DNR). One long-time observer noted that for the first time, he did not see a single brood (SJD).

Ruffed Grouse: All: one was heard 6 Jun at South Bear WA *Winneshiek* (TMH).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Two broods were seen on or near the Kellerton WA *Ringgold* this summer. To augment the dwindling population, 40 birds from Nebraska were released on or near Kellerton WA this past spring. One of those birds, wearing a transmitter, traveled more than 1100 miles

going as far south as St. Joseph, MO (twice) and north to *Madison*, ending up near Kent *Union* in late July. Another female wearing a transmitter nested in *Union* in July but a predator took the hen and nest (SSH).

Common Loon: All: 2 on 5 Jun at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF), one (basic) 11 Jun at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MP), one 12 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD), one 30 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (SJD), one 6 Jul at Green Valley L *Union* (SJD), and 2 on 15 Jul at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD).

Pied-billed Grebe: Evidence of nesting was noted in *Jackson*, *Kossuth*, *Story*, and *Tama* (JF, MCK, MP).

Eared Grebe: All: 2 on 2 Jun at Grover's L *Dickinson* (LAS), 5 on 12 Jun near Alton *Sioux* (SJD), and 2 courting 16 Jun at Goose L *Greene* (SJD).

Western Grebe: All: 2 on 18 Jun at Elm L *Wright* (SJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: Nesting was reported at three colonies: 73 nests 30 Jun at High L *Emmet* (LAS), 700 adults, 663 nests, and 422 yg 1 Jul at the *Clinton* spoil islands (SJD), and 84 adults and 26 nests 13 Jul at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (SJD).

American White Pelican: The nesting colony on the *Clinton* spoil islands continued to prosper with 1300 adults, 109 nests, and 745 yg on 1 Jul (SJD). As usual, a few pelicans summered with 38 on 28 Jun at Badger L *Monona* (GLV) and 131 on 30 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD) the most. The 275 on 21 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE) and ca 2000 on 26 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) were the first large groups of southbound birds.

American Bittern: More reports than usual with one or 2 in *Butler*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Clinton*, *Emmet*, *Greene*, *Hancock*, *Pocahontas*, *Polk*, and *Tama* (m.ob., MSIM).

Least Bittern: One 10 Jun at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (CRE), one 17 Jun at Riverton WA

Fremont (JLF), one 18 Jun, 3 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), 2 on 7 Jul at Dan Green Sl *Clay* and one there 27 Jul (LAS), one 18 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy), and one 1, 25 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP, JF). Others were found in *Jackson*, *Tama*, and *Wright* (MSIM).

Great Blue Heron: The only reports of post breeding concentrations were 30 on 20 Jul at Sandhills L *Woodbury* (GLV) and 30 on 31 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

Great Egret: The colony at the *Clinton* spoil islands had 525 adults and 303 nests 1 Jul (SJD). The largest post-breeding concentration was 63 on 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Snowy Egret: All: one 8 Jun at Dubuque *Dubuque* (CLW) and one 22 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD-details).

Cattle Egret: All: 12 on 1 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one 1 Jun at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS), 6 on 6 Jun at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (DTh), 12 on 6 Jun in w *Johnson* (JLF), 5 on 9 Jun at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* (DTh), one 13 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 4 on 14 Jun near Tama *Tama* (JF), 3 on 21 Jun near Bayard *Guthrie* (DCH), and 9 on 5 Jul at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy). On 1 Jul, 6 adults and a nest were at the *Clinton* spoil islands (SJD).

Green Heron: Birds were found in 21 counties scattered across the state (m.ob., MSIM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Singles were found in *Fremont*, *Jackson*, *Jones*, *Polk*, *Story*, *Tama*, and *Wright* (m.ob., MSIM). High counts were 8 on 5 Jul at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy), 3 on 15 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 5 on 31 Jul at Cedar L *Linn* (JF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 2 on 5 Jul and 6 on 20 Jul at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy). None were adults.

White-faced Ibis: All: 25 on 18 Jun at Bluestem WPA *Kossuth* (Vince Eversizer fide SJD) and one 7 Jul near Round L *Clay* (LAS).

Plegadis species: 14 on 12 Jun at Harrier M *Boone* (MSIM).

Turkey Vulture: Summer concentrations are more evident now than a few decades ago. Most: 72 on 20 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 103 on 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and 80 on 14 Jul on two towers in Cherokee *Cherokee* (DB).

Osprey: Eighteen pairs were reported this year with 14 successful nests producing 28 young, totals similar to those in 2012. Since 2003, 134 Ospreys have been produced at 80 nests in Iowa. Young Ospreys were released at three sites this summer: 4 at Mud L *Dubuque*, 2 at White Rock Conservancy *Guthrie*, and 3 at Swan L *Carroll* (PSc).

Mississippi Kite: Most reports were from *Polk* with 2 on 21 Jun (RIC), one 25 Jun (JB) and one 22 Jul (DCH) all in Des Moines, and one 29 Jun in West Des Moines (RIC). Two including one on a nest were in Ottumwa *Wapello* 10 Jul (JF), and one was in Ames *Story* 26 Jun (KBP-ph).

Bald Eagle: Eagle nests numbered about 300, about the same as in 2012. Nests were found in *Crawford*, *Ida*, and *Madison*, and along with one in *Audubon* in 2012, the number of counties with nests now totals 95 (SSH).

Northern Harrier: All: 2 on 15 Jun at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS), one 16 Jun at Blue Wing M *Palo Alto* (LAS), one 20 Jul in *Cerro Gordo* (RG), and one 26 Jul near Rock Rapids *Lyon* (BU). Others were found in *Decatur*, *Fremont*, and *Mills* in late June/July (MSIM).

Cooper's Hawk: This species continues to do well with reports from *Boone*, *Butler*, *Delaware*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Franklin*,

Jackson, *Jasper*, *Jones*, *Lyon*, *O'Brien*, *Polk*, and *Story* (BU, DTh, WO, MSIM).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 2 on 8 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE), one 8 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (CRE), one 8 Jun at Farmington Unit *Lee* (CRE), one or 2 on 11, 13 Jun, 17 Jul at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (TMH, DK, MSIM), one 2 Jul at Lick Creek Unit *Lee* (MP), one 3 Jul at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (DCH), one 23 Jun, 15 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (CRE, MSIM), and an ad with 2 yg 21 Jul at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TSS).

Broad-winged Hawk: All: 2 on 2 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (BSc), 3 on 3 Jun in Des Moines *Polk* (JB), one 8 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (CRE), one 13 Jun at Stone SP *Woodbury* (GLV), one 16 Jun in Ankeny *Polk* (DK), one 29 Jun in West Des Moines *Polk* (RIC), a pair with young in a nest 5 Jul in Ames *Story* (SJD), and one 10 Jul in Ottumwa *Wapello* (JF).

Virginia Rail: All: 3 on 10 Jun at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DTh), one 16 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), one 26 Jun at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (MSIM), and 3 on 18 Jun, 3 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

Sora: All: singles 10 Jun at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DTh) and 26 Jun at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (MSIM).

Common Gallinule: All: 2 on 5 Jun at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TMH), 4 there 12 Jul (JF), and 4 on 30 Jun, 3 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

American Coot: In Jun, four nests were at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK) and 10 were at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ, MP). Several large counts were reported including 154 on 16 Jun at Goose L *Greene* (SJD) and 110 on 18 Jun at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (SJD). The 1500 on 30 Jun at Eagle L WA *Hancock* was thought to include many nonbreeders (SJD).

Sandhill Crane: A pair 1 Jun at Dew-

eyes Pasture *Palo Alto* (LAS), a nest (eventually deserted) in early June at Hamlin Garland WA *Mitchell* (PH), and a pair with a small colt 17 Jun, 5 Jul at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD) help document this species' gradually expanding nesting range in Iowa. The most was 12 including 2 yg 19 Jul at traditional stronghold Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

Black-necked Stilt: A record summer for this species: One 5 Jun near Swea City *Kossuth* (MCK), one 23-25 Jun near *Tama Tama* (JF, SJD, RIA, PHA), one 11 Jul at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS-ph), and 2 on 28, 29 Jul near Iowa Falls *Hardin* (TSS, MP). These were Iowa's first summer records since 2009.

American Avocet: Two pairs were at Trumbull L *Clay* 1 Jun (LAS) where a nest with 4 eggs was found 12 Jun (SJD, see note this issue), a first for Iowa. Three birds were still there 15, 23 Jun (LAS) and 2 on 27 Jul (LAS). In e Iowa, one was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 28 Jun, 13 Jul (JF), 6 were at Otter Creek M *Tama* 19 Jul (JF), and 2 were at Cedar L *Linn* 23 Jul (JF).

Semipalmated Plover: First: one 25 Jul in *Woodbury* (GLV). Most: 13 on 27 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Piping Plover: Four adults and 2 large chicks were at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* 10 Jul where 2 nests were thought to have been successful this year (SJD).

Killdeer: Most: 136 on 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Spotted Sandpiper: The only reports were of one or 2 in *Allamakee*, *Louisa*, *Lyon*, *Pottawattamie* and *Story* (BU, TMH, WO, MSIM).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 4 on 10 Jul at Brower L *Woodbury* (GLV). Most: 12 on 10 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Greater Yellowlegs: Few reports. First: one 1 Jul at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ).

Most: 7 on 15 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Willet: All: singles 2 Jun at Kirchner Prairie *Clay* (LAS) and 13 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: 8 Jun at Jemerson Sl *Dickinson* (MSIM). First: one 28 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Most: 21 on 30 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: Up to 3 were found in *Dallas*, *Fremont*, *Greene*, *Johnson*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Lucas*, *Lyon*, and *Story* (m.ob.). The most was 6 on 18 Jun at Kellerton BCA *Ringgold* (JLF). Broods were seen 5 Jul in *Story* (Don Henderson fide BEh), 14 Jul at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS), and 27 Jul w of Ames in *Boone* (Marlene Ehresman fide BEh).

Stilt Sandpiper: All: 3 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 4 at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), and 4 at Willow Sl *Mills* (SJD), all on 10 Jul, one 14 Jul at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS) and 3 there 27 Jul (MP), and 6 on 19 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Sanderling: All: singles 17 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 31 Jul at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (MP).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 2 on 28 Jul at Rice Lake SP *Worth* (PH-details).

Least Sandpiper: Few reports. First: 4 on 28 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Most: 88 on 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 3 on 22 Jul at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS) and one 26 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The only group reported was 20 on 31 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Few reports: singles 11 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and 2 on 8 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Western Sandpiper: All: an ad 17 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher: All: 8 on 7 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), 8 on 12 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Polk* (LGR, BSc), and one 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). The 139 on 27 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS) is an all-time high summer/fall migration count for Iowa.

Wilson's Snipe: All: one 11 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

American Woodcock: All: one 6 Jul at Sand Creek WA *Decatur* (SJD), 2 on 20 Jul at Kent P *Johnson* (MHB), and birds 12 Jun in *Boone*, 18 Jun in *Fremont* and *Polk*, 12 Jul in *Wright*, and 25 Jul in *Cerro Gordo* (MSIM).

Wilson's Phalarope: A male, 2 females and a nest with 4 eggs were found 10 Jun at Bison WPA *Kossuth* (Erich Gilbert fide SJD).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: An apparent Black-headed Gull X Ring-billed Gull hybrid was seen and photographed 12 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD, see note this issue). The long history of a Black-headed Gull resting on the north end of nearby Spirit L and the nearby Ring-billed Gull colony raise some interesting questions about the origin of this bird.

Franklin's Gull: The 38 on 1 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS) seemed to be the last northbound birds. Three on 12 Jun near Akron *Sioux* (SJD) and 12 on 30 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD) were probably summer wanderers. One wonders where the 12,000 on 27 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS; a record high summer season count for Iowa) came from. Other southbound birds were 2 on 26 Jul at Larchwood *Lyon* (BU) and 2 on 30 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

Ring-billed Gull: The colony at Meinking M *Dickinson* had 340 adults and 61 nests 12 Jun (SJD). As in 2012, Ring-billed Gulls nested nearby in Illinois rather

than at the *Clinton* spoil islands (SJD). The first mention of southbound birds was 121 on 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Herring Gull: A pair with a chick and a third ad were at the *Clinton* spoil islands 1 Jul (SJD), the third record of nesting in Iowa.

Least Tern: On 10 Jul, there were 22 adults, 5 nests with eggs, and one chick at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD). Away from W Iowa, one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Jul (AB).

Caspian Tern: All: singles 9, 11 Jun at Cedar L *Linn* (JF, BSc), 11 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 16 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TJ).

Black Tern: The last probable northbound birds were 17 on 2 Jun at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS). Evidence of nesting included 4 adults feeding yg in nests 12 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (SJD) and 19 adults and 3 nests 30 Jun at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (SJD). Southbound birds included one 20 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TJ), 6 on 25 Jul at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV), and 3 on 28 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

Forster's Tern: With no recent Iowa nesting reports, singles 12 Jun in *Sioux*, 18 Jun at Elm L *Wright*, and 2 on 30 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (all SJD) probably were nonbreeders. The 5 on 17 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 2 on 30 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TJ) were probably southbound.

White-winged Dove: No reports, the first summer it has been missed since 2003.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Mostly singles were found in 23 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob., MSIM). The most was 5 on 10 Jun at Bickett-Rate Preserve *Cedar* (CRE).

Black-billed Cuckoo: All: singles 1 Jun at Ledges SP *Boone* (WO), 2 Jun at Bickett-Rate Preserve *Cedar* (CRE), 18 Jun at Ledges SP *Boone* (HZ), 26 Jul at Gitchie

Manitou SPre Lyon (BU), and in Butler, Jackson, Jones, and Wright (MSIM). This species has become alarmingly uncommon in recent years.

Barn Owl: Broods were reported in Decatur (3 yg), Washington (4 yg), Ringgold (2 yg), and another active nest in Washington was accidentally destroyed (BEh). A young bird was found near Whiting Monona (Kay Neumann fide BEh) and birds were seen or heard in Decatur (BEh).

Chuck-will's-widow: Reports included one 1 Jun at Ross P Page (KVS), 2 there 17 Jun (JLF), and 3 on 17 Jun near Decatur City Decatur (DTh). Singles 6 Jul near Sand Creek WA Ringgold (SJD) and 10 Jul at Elk Horn Creek RA Shelby (SJD) were both at new sites. The 16 counted (about 1 per mile) 18 Jun near Thurman Fremont (KDy) is easily the most ever reported in Iowa.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: From 1–3 were found in Appanoose, Boone, Decatur, Lee, and Van Buren (RLC, LGD, DTh, MP). The most was 22 on 6 Jul in Ringgold (SJD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Hummingbirds continued as reasonably common with reports from 25 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob., MSIM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: one 1 Jun–7 Jul in Spencer Clay (LAS), one 30 Jun at Trumbull L Clay (SJD), and an ad and imm 15 Jul at Bacon Creek P Woodbury (GLV). Others were in Allamakee, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Jones, Winnebago, and Winneshiek (MSIM). Addenda: The birds found in Des Moines in summer 2012 were confirmed nesters (WMZ), extending its nesting range in Iowa further south.

Northern Flicker: A “red-shafted flicker” at Luton WA Woodbury on 23 Jun (GLV) seems to be a first for summer for Iowa.

Pileated Woodpecker: Up to 3 were found in 23 counties, mostly east of I-35 (m.ob., MSIM). One 30 Jun in e Pocahontas (SJD) was out of its usual range. A nest near Bluffton Winneshiek produced 2 yg (LZ).



Peregrine Falcon: As in 2012, 15 territories were active this year. Of those 13 were successful as follows: Allamakee-3, Clinton-2, Des Moines-1, Linn-1, Louisa-1, Polk-2, Scott-2, and Wapello-1, and produced 31 young (PSc). Two of 3 cliff nests in Allamakee were successful.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Last: singles all on 6 Jun; e of Charles City Floyd and at Twin Ponds Chickasaw (RIA, PHA), and at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: one 1 Jun in Algona Kossuth (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: Birds were seen in 19 counties mainly in the e half of Iowa with one 6 Jul at Bertram Reservation Clay (AB) the furthest west. The most was 8 on 17 Jun at Eldon WA Davis (CRE).



Alder Flycatcher: More reports than usual. Late birds were singles 9 Jun at Algona Kossuth (MCK), 12 Jun at Trumbull L Clay (SJD), 13 Jun at East Swan L Emmet (MSIM), and 19 Jun at Ingham-High Wetland Complex Emmet (MSIM).

Willow Flycatcher: A few were found in 23 counties scattered across Iowa but mostly in the n half of the state (m.ob., MSIM).

Least Flycatcher: The 5 on 1 Jun at Algona Kossuth (MCK), one 6 Jun at DeKalb WA Decatur (MSIM), and one 11 Jun at Black Hawk WA Sac (MSIM) seemed to be late migrants. Birds in possible breeding areas were 3 on 12 Jun at Yellow River SF Allamakee (DK), one 18 Jun at Lower Morse

L Wright where Least Flycatchers nested last year (SJD), and birds in *Allamakee*, *Butler*, *Clayton*, *Dubuque*, *Jackson*, and *Winneshiek* (MSIM).

Western Kingbird: In W Iowa, up to 4 were found in *Fremont*, *Harrison*, *Lyon*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Woodbury* (MP, BU, SJD, GLV). One 2 Jun at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (LAS) was further east and one or 2 were in Des Moines, Johnston, and Valley Junction in *Polk* (JB, DTh, RLC). Dyche found 15 in or near Shenandoah *Page* including several nests (KDY). One 31 Jul at Cordova P *Marion* (Therese Cummiskey, eBird), was unexpected.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: All: one 7 Jun at Big Creek SP (MSIM) and a juv 17 Jun near McPaul WA *Fremont* (JLF). This species has been found in Iowa four of the last five summers.

Loggerhead Shrike: All: one 1, 22 Jun and 2 on 8 Jun in *Iowa* (JF), one 28 Jul at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (PH), one 27 Jul at Wood Duck M *Winnebago* (MSIM), and one 30 Jul at Cone M *Louisa* (JF). The number reported in Iowa continues to dwindle.

White-eyed Vireo: Up to 5 were found 8 Jun –8 Jul at Croton Unit *Lee* (m.ob.). One was at nearby Farmington Unit *Lee* 8 Jun (CRE). Reports away from *Lee* were singles 29 Jun at Fox Hills WA *Wapello* (JB), 8 Jul at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (TJ), and 9 Jul at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TSS).

Bell's Vireo: A few were found in 20 counties mostly in the s half of Iowa but north to *Osceola* and *Mitchell* (m.ob., MSIM). The most was 8 on 10 Jul at Littlefield P *Audubon* (SJD).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Birds were found in 24 counties scattered throughout the state although most were in the e half of Iowa (m.ob., MSIM).

Red-eyed Vireo: Birds were found

in 25 counties statewide (m.ob., MSIM). This remains a common species in suitable woodland habitat.

Black-billed Magpie: All: an ad was on a nest 12 Jun at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (SJD).

Bank Swallow: Large concentrations included 450 on 13 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and 2700 on 27 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Cliff Swallow: Most: 3000 on 21 Jul at Saylorsville Res *Polk* (BE).

Tufted Titmouse: Most records were east and south of a line from *Fremont* to *Cerro Gordo*. The only outlier was one 2 Jul at Anderson Prairie *Emmet* (MSIM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: one 7 Jun in *Ida Grove Ida* (RIA, PHA).

Brown Creeper: All: birds were reported in *Allamakee*, *Jones*, and *Winneshiek* (MSIM).

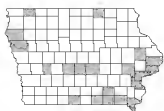
Sedge Wren: Most reports were from the n third of Iowa and only reports on 22 Jun at Nottleman Island Mills and 29 Jul at Cedar Bottoms WA *Muscatine* were from the s third of the state (m.ob., MSIM).

Marsh Wren: Six on 10 Jun at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DTh), 10 on 10 Jun at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (CRE), and 14 on 3 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD) all indicated typical numbers in its usual range. One 17 Jul at Big Creek SP *Polk* (SJD) was a bit south of where it is usually found.

Carolina Wren: Birds were found in 11 counties with none in the n third of Iowa (SJD, TMH, MP, DTh, MSIM). The only reports of nesting were 2 adults and 2 yg 25 Jun in *Iowa City Johnson* (EA) and a family group 2 Jul at Lick Creek Unit *Lee* (MP).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Reported from 16 counties, about typical (TMH, MSIM). Only a report from *Pottawattamie* was from the w third of Iowa.

Veery: Beside singles 2 Jun at Bickett



Rate Preserve *Cedar* (CRE) and 16 Jun at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (RG), others were reported in *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, *Delaware*, *Jackson*, *Jones*, and *Winneshiekie* (MSIM). This species seems to be rarer now than in past years.

Wood Thrush: Birds were found in 20 counties, mostly in the e half of Iowa (m.ob., MSIM). Eldon WA in *Davis* had the most with 7 there 17 Jun (CRE) and 8 on 25 Jun (RLC).

Northern Mockingbird: From 1-3 were found in *Appanoose*, *Decatur*, *Iowa*, *Johnson*, *Louisa*, *Page*, *Polk*, and *Union* (m.ob., MSIM).

Cedar Waxwing: Waxwings seemed to be common with reports from 28 counties scattered across the state (m.ob., MSIM). The 57 on 7 Jun at the Loess Hills WA *Monona* (RIA, PHA) was a high summer concentration. One observer noted that it was unusually common this summer with much evidence of nesting (SJD).

Ovenbird: Overbirds were found mostly south and east of a line from *Pottawattamie* to *Winneshiekie* (m.ob., MSIM). The most was 12 on 13 Jun at Unionville Unit *Appanoose* (RLC).

Worm-eating Warbler: Reports were singles from two sites: 8 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE), 19 Jun (RLC), and 29 Jun (JB), and 17 Jun at Eldon WA *Davis* (CRE).

Louisiana Waterthrush: All: one 8 Jun at Amana Woods *Iowa* (JF), 3 on 8 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE) and one there 29 Jun (JB), one 8, 25 Jun at Farmington Unit *Van Buren/Lee* (CRE, TMH), 3 on 17 Jun at Eldon WA *Davis* (CRE), and birds in *Clayton*, *Fremont*, *Page*, *Ringgold*, and *Van Buren* (MSIM). Three 1 Jul at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* included at least one fledgling (MP).

Blue-winged Warbler: All: 2 on 8 Jun at the Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE), one there 19 Jun (RLC), 6 on 20 Jun at Yellow River SF

Allamakee (TSS), one 29 Jun at Stephens SF *Clarke* (AB), and birds in *Allamakee*, *Boone*, *Fremont*, *Jackson*, *Jones*, *Monroe*, and *Winneshiekie* (MSIM).

Black-and-white Warbler: All: singles 7 Jun at Bloody Run WA *Clayton* (MSIM) and 29 Jun at Fox Hills WA *Wapello* (JB).

Prothonotary Warbler: Most reports came from along the Mississippi R in *Allamakee*, *Jackson*, and *Louisa* with *Louisa* having by far the most (MSIM). Others were along the Des Moines R in *Boone* and *Polk* (MSIM), in *Decatur* and *Fremont* (MSIM), and outliers 11 Jun at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (TMH), 11 Jun at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MP), and a pair 3 Jul near Dows *Wright* (SJD).

Tennessee Warbler: All: singles 2 Jun at Bickett-Rate Preserve *Cedar* (CRE) and 17 Jun at the high trestle bridge *Boone* (MSIM).

Mourning Warbler: All: one 5 Jun at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Kentucky Warbler: As usual, most were in SE Iowa with up to 5 in *Appanoose*, *Davis*, *Lee*, and *Van Buren* (RLC, CRE, BSc, JB, MP). The only reports away from there were one 15 Jun at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK), one or 2 on 8–20 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (MSIM, TSS), and birds 10 Jun at Lansing WA *Allamakee* (MSIM).

Hooded Warbler: All: one 1 Jun at Clear Creek *Johnson* (CRE), 3 on 2 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (BSc) and 1–3 there through 2 Jul (CRE, JLF, RLC, JB, MP), one 7 Jun at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), one 20 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (TSS), and one 25 Jun at Eldon WA *Davis* (RLC).

American Redstart: Reports came from 20 counties across most of Iowa (m.ob., MSIM). With at least 16 on 8 Jun at Grammer Grove P *Marshall* (MP) and 12 on 11 Jun at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MP), it is apparent that this species is still abundant in suitable woodland habitat.

Cerulean Warbler: Most reports were from the two eastern corners of Iowa: one or 2 on 8 Jun (CRE), 25 Jun (TMH), and 29 Jun (JB), all at Croton Unit *Lee*, and birds 2–23 Jun (MSIM), 20 Jun (TSS), and 15 Jul (CRE) at Yellow River SF *Allamakee*. Other reports were one 1 Jun at Hanging Rock Woods *Johnson* (JF), 5 Jun at Saylorville WA *Polk* (MSIM), and 2 on 17 Jun at Eldon WA *Davis* (CRE).

Northern Parula: Up to 4 were found in 12 counties mainly across s Iowa but north along the Des Moines R to Boone and the Mississippi R to *Jackson*. The largest concentration of reports was from *Lee* (m.ob., MSIM).

Yellow Warbler: This species continues as a common nesting species with reports from throughout Iowa (MSIM). The 62 on 12 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD) is indicative of the high densities possible in some of Iowa's best habitat for this species..

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One 17, 25 Jun, 8 Jul near the high trestle bridge *Boone* (MSIM) seemed territorial.

Pine Warbler: All: one 8 Jun at Farmington Unit *Van Buren* (CRE) and one or 2 on 8–29 Jun at Farmington Unit *Lee* (CRE, JLF, TMH, JB). Birds were at the latter site in 2012.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: All: a male 30 Jun at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (KG-ph) was Iowa's first summer record since 2003 and a record late date.

Yellow-throated Warbler: As usual, most reports were from Shimek SF *Lee* and *Van Buren* and Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (MP, CRE, TMH). Other reports were 11 Jun at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (TMH), 17 Jun in *Davis* (CRE), and 13 Jun, 23 Jul at Wapsipinicon SP *Jones* (MSIM).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: All: one 4 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (*JWR-ph), at the same

place 8 Jun (*CRE), and still there 9 and 22 Jun (JLF, CRE). Elsewhere one was at Eldon WA *Davis* 15 Jun (*AB). These are the first summer records of this species in Iowa since 2007.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Up to 3 were found 2 Jun–8 Jul at Croton Unit *Lee* (m.ob.), 8–16 Jun at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* (DTh, AB, JB), 22 Jun at Turkey Run WA *Lee* (CRE), 1 Jul near Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (MP), 3, 8 Jul at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (DCH, TJ), 7 Jul near L Sugema *Van Buren* (AMJ), 17 Jul at Big Creek SP *Polk* (SJD), and in *Fremont*, *Muscatine*, and *Van Buren* (MSIM).

Eastern Towhee: Up to 5 were found in 30 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob., MSIM). It continues to occur in low densities across most of Iowa.

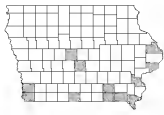
Clay-colored Sparrow: All: 5 on 18 Jun at West Fork WA *Palo Alto* (JN), 7 males there 11 Jul (JN), one 3 Jun at Boylan Creek WA *Butler* (MSIM), and birds at several sites in *Dickinson* and *Emmet* (MSIM). It seems to be established at several sites in the Great Lakes region.

Lark Sparrow: This species continues to show its patchy distribution with up to 4 found in *Boone*, *Cedar*, *Clayton*, *Hardin*, *Harrison*, *Jackson*, *Kossuth*, *Mitchell*, *Monroe*, *Plymouth*, and *Polk* (m.ob., MSIM).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Birds were reported from 26 counties statewide (m.ob., MSIM). The 10 on 13 Jul at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (WWH) were the most. It continues to do well in Iowa.

Henslow's Sparrow: Up to 6 were found in 14 counties north and east of a line from *Davis* to *Dickinson* (m.ob., MSIM), similar to the pattern found in recent years.

Summer Tanager: Most reports were from *Appanoose*, *Lee*, and *Van Buren* in far



S Iowa (RLC, CRE, JB, BSc, MP) with birds found north to Davenport *Scott* (WMZ), Solon *Johnson* (CRE), Cold Springs SP *Cass* (SJD), Pioneer Ridge Nat A *Wapello* (TMH), the Saylorville WA *Polk* and *Boone* and west to Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (MSIM).

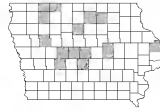
Scarlet Tanager: This species continued to be found in suitable woodland habitat throughout all but NW Iowa (m.ob., MSIM).

Blue Grosbeak: Most were found in W Iowa where it is expected: 1–3 in *Fremont*, *Harrison*, *Lyon*, *Mills*, *Plymouth*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Woodbury* and one or 2 in *Osceola*, *Cherokee*, and *Cass* just to the east (m.ob.). In SE Iowa one or 2 were found in *Lee* (CRE), *Eldon* WA *Davis* (RLC), and near L *Sugema Van Buren* (AMJ). One or 2 on 10 Jun at Bickett-Rate Preserve *Cedar* (CRE) and from 22–27 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and one 28 Jul at Big Creek SP *Polk* in Cen Iowa (DTh) were unexpected. None were reported from the Coralville Res area where they have been found the past two summers.

Dickcissel: This seemed to be a good year with birds found statewide except in far NE Iowa. High counts included 20 on 8 Jun at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (WWH), 35 on 13 Jul at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (WWH), and 18 on 31 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

Bobolink: Most reports were from the n half of Iowa but birds were found south to Dekalb WA *Decatur* (m.ob., MSIM). The 20 on 25 Jul in n *Mitchell* were thought to be a pre-migratory flock (PH).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: As expected, most reports were from the Prairie Pot-hole region of NW and N-cen Iowa (MSIM)



with birds south to Lakin SI *Guthrie* (MSIM) and Errington M *Polk* (DTh).

Birds at the Rockford Fossil S Preserve *Floyd* (MSIM), Otter Creek M and near Tama *Tama* (MSIM, TMH), and at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MSIM) were isolated populations.

Great-tailed Grackle: A few were found at Dan Green SI *Clay* (LAS), Voas Nature A *Dallas* (KG), Snake Creek M *Greene* (DTh, SJD), Dunbar SI *Greene* (SJD), Lakin SI *Guthrie* (MSIM), and near Tama *Tama* (SJD, TMH). The only report of nesting was at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD). The breeding range of this species has changed little since the 1980s and 1990s when it expanded greatly in Iowa.

Orchard Oriole: Birds were found in 28 counties spanning virtually all of Iowa (m.ob., MSIM). A brood was found 3 Jul high near Bluffton *Winneshiek* (LZ).

Red Crossbill: For the second straight summer, Red Crossbills were found. This year 2 males and 2 females were at a feeder 11 Jun in *Cherokee Cherokee* (DB) where they had been present through the end of May (Harms 2013).

Pine Siskin: All: up to 12 from 1–6 Jun were in the same Mason City yard *Cerro Gordo* where they had remained until the end of May (PH, Harms 2013).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 3 on 15 Jun in Argyle *Lee* (AB) and one or 2 there 2 Jul (MP), one 29 Jun in Montrose *Lee* (JB), 4 on 27 Jul at Bickett-Rate Preserve *Cedar* (CRE), and birds 4, 17 Jun, 12 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (MSIM), all in its established range.

COMMENT

I received a total of 934 reports to the IOU website, and the MSIM program provided more than 8000 more. A total of 155 species plus one hybrid are included in this report. An additional 58 species, mostly common or abundant species, were reported but are

not included here, indicating that 213 species were present in Iowa this summer. This is slightly below average for summer. A total of 51 observers reported birds, and numerous others were involved with the MSIM reports. Without those individuals and their reports, this seasonal summary would not be possible. As always, I thank all of you for your efforts in reporting birds.

As has become the norm, the standard list of birds found in Iowa has undergone some minor changes. This year, the order of listing for Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, and shorebirds in the genus *Calidris* has changed. Nothing earth-shattering but expect to see more changes in the future.

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LITERATURE CITED

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American Avocet Nesting at Trumbull Lake, Clay County

Stephen J. Dinsmore and Lee A. Schoenewe

The American Avocet is a regular spring and fall migrant throughout Iowa, but was not previously known to nest in the state. In May 2013 we independently observed 1-2 pairs of American Avocets in suitable nesting habitat at Trumbull Lake in Clay County. Schoenewe revisited the site on 27 May and 1 June. On 1 June he observed copulation and the male chased off a Gadwall that got too close. Dinsmore returned to the site on 12 June and saw what appeared to be an adult sitting on a nest on a low gravel spit along the west shoreline. As he watched, a second adult appeared, the two birds switched roles, and the incubating bird flew off to the north. He later approached the site on foot, was mobbed by the tending adult (Figure 1), and discovered a nest with 4 eggs (Figure 2). The nest consisted of a low mound of dead plant material resting on a recently exposed mudflat. It was partially camouflaged by a sparse clump of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and *Polygonum* spp., not far from deeper water containing denser emergent vegetation. Schoenewe next checked the lake on 15 June after a heavy rainfall and found 3 avocets. One circled the nest site for several minutes while calling, then flew to the north end of the lake and joined a second bird; a third bird was feeding on the east side of the lake. Dinsmore re-checked the nest site on 30 June and did not see any avocets; the nest site had been recently flooded and the nest could not have been successful. At least two of the adults lingered through 27 July, although there was no further evidence of nesting activity.

This represents the first nesting record of American Avocet in Iowa. A possible nesting pair at the power plant ponds at Sioux City in Woodbury Co. in 1986 (*Iowa Bird Life* 56:115) is the best indication that the species has possibly nested in Iowa. A set of four eggs was purportedly collected in June 1900 near Hawarden in Sioux County (Anderson



Figure 1. American Avocet near nest, Trumbull L, Clay, 12 June 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Figure 2. American Avocet nest with 4 eggs, Trumbull L, Clay, 12 June 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

1907); the veracity of this report has been questioned, and it generally has not been accepted. This also marks a notable range expansion for this species, which is a regular breeder as close as northeastern South Dakota (Peterson 1995) and in Nebraska in the eastern Sandhills and Rainwater Basin (Sharp et al. 2001).

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Sandhill Crane colt, Anderson L, Hamilton, 27 June 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Western Sandpiper, Saylorville Res, Polk, 17 July 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Loggerhead Shrike, Jasper, 11 June 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Black-necked Stilt, Pintail Wetland, Hardin, 11 July 2013. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.



Acadian Flycatcher, Jefferson, 11 June 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Polk, 18 July 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



Eastern Bluebird, Jester P, Polk, 3 June 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



Prothonotary Warbler, Wright, 3 July 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Dickcissel, Harrier M, Boone, 19 July 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Brown Thrasher, Jester P, Polk, 3 June 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



Grasshopper Sparrow, Jasper, 11 June 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Bobolink, 12 June 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Hybrid Black-headed X Ring-billed Gull in Dickinson County

Stephen J. Dinsmore

On 12 June 2013 I visited the Ring-billed Gull colony at Meinking Marsh in Dickinson County. As I was scanning the many nesting gulls I noticed a smaller gull with distinctive features that set it apart from the adult Ring-billed Gulls. I studied the bird intermittently for more than an hour and took many photos to try to document its identity. The bird was clearly a hybrid because it shared characters intermediate between full species, many of which suggested an interesting possible parentage.

Structurally, the bird was approximately two thirds the size of a Ring-billed Gull and noticeably slimmer and smaller-headed. The straight bill was thin, lacked a gonydeal angle, and was bicolored with the distal third black and the basal region a dull pinkish orange color. The head was mostly white with darker markings on the auricular region, rear crown, and upper nape. These dark markings resembled an irregular hood. The lower nape and underparts were white. The mantle and folded upperwings were pale gray, nearly identical in color to those of nearby adult Ring-billed Gulls, and contrasted with the black folded primaries. The rectrices and uppertail coverts were white. The legs were dull pinkish orange, the same color as the bill. In flight the upperwings showed a distinctive pattern



Figure 1. Probable hybrid Black-headed X Ring-billed Gull (left bird) with Ring-billed Gulls, Meinking M, Dickinson, 12 June 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Figure 2. Probable hybrid Black-headed X Ring-billed Gull, Meinking M, Dickinson, 12 June 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

with extensive black color and a large white subterminal mirror on the outer two primaries, narrow black tips and more subterminal white color on the next four primaries, and a hint of white on the leading edge of the wing in the greater primary and greater secondary coverts. This pattern was also obvious from underneath, although the white markings in the primaries were perhaps more accentuated. The wing pattern and white rectrices strongly suggested the bird was an adult, but what species?

The true identity of this bird may never be known for certain without collecting it, but my best guess is a Black-headed X Ring-billed Gull hybrid. The bird's overall appearance is suggestive of this combination of parents for several reasons. In particular, the very pale gray upperparts, size compared to Ring-billed Gulls, more than expected amount of white along the entire length of p8-p10, bill length, shape, and coloration, head pattern, and leg color are all consistent with this parentage, although they don't necessarily exclude other possibilities. To confirm my suspicions, I solicited opinions of this bird from the ID-Frontiers on-line discussion group. Most replies suggested this hybrid combination, and several included links to photos of other individuals that matched this bird's appearance. Finally, there is an interesting side note to this story. In 1994 a pair of Black-headed Gulls tending a begging juvenile was found on the west side of Spirit Lake (less than 10 miles from where this gull was photographed), a sign that they probably nested nearby (Dinsmore 1996). Through the late 1990s one or two adult Black-headed Gulls were seen almost annually in this region in summer and fall, dwindling to a single adult that was last noted on 25 October 2009. No subsequent breeding by Black-headed Gulls was confirmed or suspected, nor were any juveniles found. Beginning in 1994 (Waltz 1994) a small colony of Ring-billed Gulls was established in Dickinson County. It seems plausible that a Black-headed Gull might have hybridized with a Ring-billed Gull at this colony to produce this bird.

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Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Goose Lake: Iowa's First Record

Stephen J. Dinsmore

On 17 July 1994, I found an adult Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) at Goose Lake in Clinton County. I studied the bird from 1:30 to 2:10 P.M. as it rested on a muskrat house about 50 m south of the main dike. The most conspicuous features of the bird were the long legs, upright posture, and generally tawny and buff appearance. The bird was the same size as nearby Mallards, although it had a distinctive erect posture, a longer, slimmer neck, and longer legs, all typical of a whistling-duck. The head shape reminded me of that of a Northern Pintail. The bill was bluish-gray in color. The crown, hindneck, mantle, and wings were dark-colored (nearly black), and the mantle was marked by several lateral buffy stripes. The dark line on the hindneck was continuous, suggesting the bird was a female. The underparts, including the belly, breast, and foreneck, as well as the cheek, were a rich tawny color. The long legs appeared dark. There was a thin, white line along the flank, just below the wing. I saw the bird very briefly in flight, and noted the buffy upperwing coverts, narrow white band across the uppertail, and that the legs dangled well beyond the tail tip. The underwing was dark-colored. The bird did not vocalize. The bird remained at this location through at least 8 September, but it was often difficult to locate because of its tendency to remain hidden in the taller cattails.

This represents the only confirmed record of a Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Iowa, although there is a probable record from Palo Alto County on 11 June 1963 (Horak and Kaufmann 1965). As with many records of vagrant waterfowl, the origin of this bird was immediately debated. Several observers, including me, carefully examined the bird for bands or other signs of recent captivity. The bird carried no bands, it was capable of sustained flight, and it seemed quite wary, all suggestive that the bird was not of captive origin. The Iowa Ornithologists Union Records Committee subsequently accepted the identification of the bird, but considered the origin uncertain (Kent 1995). It was not until a 2009 reassessment of this record that it was accepted as a genuine vagrant (Johnson 2010). Subsequent to this report, a group of six Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was seen on 17 June 2012 at Forney Lake in Fremont County (Silcock 2012). This species is a rare but increasing vagrant north to the Upper Midwest. It has been acceptably reported from all states surrounding Iowa with a spring peak (April to June) followed by steady but lower numbers of records from July to November.

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Pacific Wren at Brookside Park in Ames: Iowa's First Record

Shane S. Patterson

In 2003, I took numerous birding walks through the diverse floodplain woods of Brookside Park, which had been known for many years as a hotspot for migrant songbirds (Martsching 1986, 1987). One of my most memorable finds was a bird that turned out to be Iowa's first Pacific Wren.

While exploring the park's northern extent on 21 October, I noticed a tiny bird flitting and scurrying amongst an agglomeration of fallen trees along Squaw Creek. In the soft, late-afternoon lighting, I initially identified this individual to be a Winter Wren, based on distinctive size, structure, behavior, and patterns. However, I found myself intrigued because certain plumage details differed from other Winter Wrens I'd seen in Iowa and other states. Most obvious was this bird's more dramatic coloration, which was first brought to my attention by the uniformly rich, cinnamon-rufous on the breast, sides, and throat. Even the undertail coverts showed this warm coloration as the bird navigated the nooks of root tangles. The crown, nape, back, rump, and uppertail were richly reddish-brown, slightly darker than the breast and sides. On the wings, the background color (in between the contrasting blackish bars) of the secondaries was similar to the back, rump, and uppertail, whereas the background color of the primaries looked a bit paler than the rich cinnamon-rufous color on the underparts. White specks on the wings were present, but they were small and limited to the greater coverts.

While I studied this bird's plumage details, it soon uttered call notes unlike any I had ever heard from a Winter Wren, making me even more curious about the bird's identity. Several times, it produced an abrupt, high-pitched, somewhat harsh "*chetchet*", different from the "jemp" or "kemp" notes of Song Sparrows that were feeding in nearby grassy patches. Thus, instead of sounding like a typical (eastern) Winter Wren, this bird's vocalizations were more reminiscent of the familiar calls of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet or Wilson's Warbler.

For nearly two minutes, I was able to get good views as it foraged and postured in the shoreline logjam about 5-10 m away. Strongly suspecting that I had observed something unusual, I took notes and returned home, where I compiled and typed those same observations for my fall field report. After checking my copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* and a more detailed reference on this species (Hejl et al. 2002), I was confident that I had encountered what was (at that time) categorized as a western form of Winter Wren. Thus, even though there was no stated policy on documenting subspecies/forms, I submitted a thorough description to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union's Records Committee. The record was subsequently published as a Western (*pacificus* type) Winter Wren (Hertzel 2004) and mentioned alongside other rarities in an article about Brookside Park (Patterson 2006).

In retrospect, I'm especially glad that I watched/listened carefully, took notes, and completed documentation. Winter Wren was later split into three species: Eurasian Wren, Winter Wren, and Pacific Wren (Chesser et al. 2010). Shortly thereafter, the IOU Records

Committee reviewed my original documentation and accepted the record as the state's first Pacific Wren.

Although not as extensively migratory as the Winter Wren, the Pacific Wren does regularly move south and east in fall from its breeding range, which includes the name-sake Pacific Coast (Aleutian Islands through central California), much of the northern and central Rockies, and even the Black Hills of South Dakota. Therefore, we should definitely keep our eyes and ears open, as the potential exists for more wanderers of this species to find their way to the central US during migration and winter.

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Baird's Sparrow in Cherokee County: Iowa's First Record

Katy Patterson

On the morning of 4 June 2004, I was conducting a bird point count in a fairly dry, mixed-grass pasture upslope from Mill Creek, just northwest of the town of Cherokee. Unlike much of Iowa's landscape, belts of grassland and other habitats follow along this

corridor for a considerable stretch through northwest Iowa.

At 6:30 A.M., I had just finished one of my counts and was nearly back to my truck when I heard the distinctive song of a Baird's Sparrow to the south. The song began with two short, plaintive, high-pitched notes (sounding like *tseep, tseep*) that led into the rest of the song. A trilled portion descended and then rose up again a bit at the end. This sad, plaintive song was thinner and more wavering than the whistled song of Field Sparrows in the vicinity. It was also distinct from the insect-like songs of the many nearby Grasshopper Sparrows. I was familiar with Baird's Sparrow from previous work in North Dakota.

I moved toward the source of the song in hopes of seeing the bird. By the time I saw the bird, it had moved west to a mixed-grass on private property and I had to be content to view him from outside the boundary fence at a distance of about 35 m. He sang several times again while I wrote down the following notes. My initial look showed that it was an *Ammodramus* sparrow, with the rather large, flat head and short tail characteristic of the genus. Further study showed that the bird had a belt of fine, dark streaks on the breast and a dark lateral throat stripe. It also had an area of short, narrow dark stripes on the nape. While the lines on the nape were rather thin, they were still noticeable, and their dark coloration stood out against the pale buffy-ochre background of the nape. The bird's head and cheek were also buffy-ochre. The bill appeared longer and thicker than that of Grasshopper Sparrows that were singing in the same fields. The tail, although short when compared to many other songbirds, looked longer than those of the nearby Grasshopper Sparrows. There was also a dark mark below the eye, a buffy area behind the eye, and one row of thin rusty streaks on the flanks. It sang a few more times before moving out of observation range further to the west.

Baird's Sparrow is a declining songbird that nests in the mixed-grass prairies of the Dakotas, the Prairie Provinces, Montana, and occasionally Minnesota. Breeding populations of this species are nomadic, and singles or even breeding pairs have shown up well outside their normal range. For example, I have encountered this species twice to the east of its usual breeding range: on the Sheyenne National Grassland of southeastern North Dakota in 2000 and The Nature Conservancy's Glacial Ridge property in western Minnesota in 2002. Thus, this species might be expected as a rare migrant in western Iowa, and because of its tendency to wander during the nesting season it is even a possible breeding species. We should definitely be on the lookout for more records of this sought-after songbird!

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Records from the Past: Hooded Oriole

Ann M. Johnson

One species was added to the Iowa checklist in 2003 with no details published in *Iowa Bird Life*. This note provides those details for future reference.

Hooded Oriole (2003-13, A-P, *Iowa Bird Life* 73:86; 74:112). On 25 May 2003 Judy Meineke's granddaughter asked about an unusual bird at their feeder near Fairbank in Buchanan County. Several photos were obtained over the next few hours and were shown to Pat at Cedar River Milling Company a few days later. Pat recognized the bird as a probable Hooded Oriole. The photos eventually made their way to the IOU Records Committee for review and Iowa's first Hooded Oriole record was confirmed.

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Book Review

James J. Dinsmore



The Raptors of Iowa by Dean M. Roosa, Jon W. Stravers, Bruce Ehresman, and Rich Patterson with paintings by James F. Landenberger. 2013. 103 pp., color illustrations, University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, ISBN 978-1-60938-166-0, \$29.95 (soft cover).

This long-awaited book is centered on the artwork of James Landenberger, a talented artist who lived in Cedar Rapids for many years. The book features 32 full-page paintings illustrating 15 species of hawks, five falcons, 11 owls, and one vulture that occur in Iowa. Two other species, Boreal Owl and Black Vulture, are not illustrated and only briefly mentioned. A larger format would have given greater justice to Landenberger's excellent work, but presumably the realities of publication costs have limited it to the 6 by 8 inch published version. This is not an identification

guide with birds lined up to show features that help identify them but rather is a book that shows his subjects as wild birds of prey that, other than the vulture, survive largely by killing and eating other animals. Whether it is an Osprey perched atop a catfish that will be its next meal or a Northern Goshawk crashing through branches chasing an unseen prey, Landenberger's paintings show the power, fearlessness, and skill of these birds. With eyes ablaze and talons ready to do their job, he shows raptors doing what they do best, finding their next meal. Most of the birds are perched but the two Merlins that look like missiles emerging from a cloud remind us of the flight ability of raptors. Unlike most wildlife paintings that have the bird immersed in a full background of some natural environment, Landenberger's birds usually show little more than the bird or birds on a perch and some limited nearby vegetation.

Most of the text is provided by the four essays. Patterson tells us about the artist, his work and his contributions to conservation and education, Roosa shares a number of stories from his 50 plus years of working with raptors in Iowa, Stravers similarly shares some of his experiences, especially from his long-time work with Red-shouldered Hawks, and Ehresman tells of recent conservation efforts for some of Iowa's raptors. In combination, these provide numerous fascinating stories about the work of these four long-time leaders in the study of Iowa's raptors. All four express the joy they have had working with raptors, and all express their strong conservation ethic, a belief they shared with artist Landenberger.

Each of the 32 illustrated species receives two pages of coverage, one for the painting and the facing page for some comments about the species. The comments range from a few sentences to about half a page of text and generally provide information on its status, where and when the species occurs in Iowa, and often comments on its behavior and habitat preferences. The accounts are brief, and those who want more information on topics such as food habits, nesting behavior, or migration patterns will have to look elsewhere. Brief mention is given to some of the recent success stories for raptors in Iowa: the stunning return of nesting Bald Eagles, the roadside nest-box program for American Kestrels, and the success of the release programs for Peregrine Falcons and Ospreys. In contrast, the comment that the Black Vulture is nearly regular in Iowa seems premature to me. Other recent successes such as the great increase in the number of summering Turkey Vultures over much of Iowa and the increasing number of nesting Cooper's Hawks are not mentioned.

Still it is the excellent artwork by Landenberger that will make this a book that many will want to own. He obviously had studied his subjects closely, and his paintings illustrate them well. The head and shoulder painting of a Golden Eagle stands out as different from the full-body view of all of the others. My own personal favorite was the Red-shouldered Hawk painting featuring a perched bird surrounded by fresh oak leaves. The essays round out the book by relating a variety of personal experiences of four experts who have worked extensively with raptors in Iowa. Many birders and especially those who are enthralled by raptors will find much to enjoy in this book.

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The lead article in the December 1963 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* was a report on the fall meeting in Waterloo. Although fall gatherings of the IOU had been held for a number of years, they still were a social event and did not involve a formal business meeting that was reserved for the spring meeting. A total of 74 people gathered this year with field trips on both days a major part of the event. A total of 102 species was seen on the trips with Osprey, Merlin, and Pileated Woodpecker listed as special finds.

A short article by William Youngworth described his experiences with Pine Warblers in the Sioux City area, noting that he had only a few observations of the species in his many years in the region, starting with one nearby in South Dakota in 1945. His first record in Iowa was of two birds that he found in Sioux City in 1957 and he again saw two birds in 1958 and 1963.

The field reports section took up much of the issue with five full pages of reports, the largest report for this feature to date. It appears that the fall migration was a good one with numerous reports of geese, ducks, hawks, warblers, and sparrows. Hidden amongst these reports, perhaps the most interesting was the comment that longtime Akron resident Eldon Bryant had found Say's Phoebe at more than 20 locations around Akron with the last record of one on 29 September. Some of those birds may have been in nearby South Dakota but clearly conditions must have been good for Say's Phoebe in 1963.

Among the shorter notes were one by Eldon Bryant on the courtship flight of Northern Harriers, a summary of some unusual Mourning Dove nesting sites by Dean Roosa, and the report by William Woodworth of several sightings of Dickcissels using a birdbath. Several book reviews completed the issue.

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Bobolink, Union, 5 July 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Willow Flycatcher, Jefferson, 10 June 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Great Egret, Pool 13, Clinton, 1 July 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



*Herring Gull, Pool 13, Clinton, 1 July 2013.
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Cattle Egret, Pool 13, Clinton, 1 July 2013.
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Nesting colonial waterbirds, Pool 13, Clinton, 1 July 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring: 16–18 May 2014, Bellevue, Nebraska (joint meeting with Nebraska Ornithologists' Union).

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Henslow's Sparrow, Neal Smith NWR, *Jasper*, 11 June 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Least Tern, MidAmerican Energy ponds, *Pottawattamie*, 10 July 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

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